

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 26, 2008

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman
Senate Budget Committee
624 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg
Ranking Member
Senate Budget Committee
624 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Conrad and Ranking Member Gregg:

The recently enacted Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 provides this Congress with a great opportunity for a Green Collar Jobs Initiative to fund priority energy policies. It is time for Congress to turn its attentions to the vital policies within that can move this country towards energy independence and create new green collar jobs. With this in mind, we are writing to request that the budget provide full funding—\$7.5 billion—for a Green Collar Jobs Initiative which will fund priority alternative and renewable energy policies from the Energy Bill.

Funding a Green Collar Jobs Initiative will not only move us towards energy independence and provide a cleaner environment, but it can also bring about another important benefit: new, good-paying jobs. Investing in new green job opportunities will result in more energy efficient buildings, solar panels, wind turbines, advanced technology vehicles with advanced electric batteries, and renewable biofuels and energy.

The United States has the opportunity to improve our economy and global competitiveness by creating green jobs at home, in a growing sector that produces clean and efficient homes, appliances, vehicles, fuels, and energy. Investing domestically now will ensure we do not have to import renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, and advanced biofuels. Moreover, with the right incentives we will have American workers and manufactures building the next generation of automobiles and advanced technology batteries. Overall, with all these new green industries, green job training can help many unemployed/underemployed workers find new and better-paying jobs.

While there are many programs in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, fully funding these priority areas will make a Green Collar Jobs Initiative a reality for 2009:

- Weatherization, Commercial Building Initiatives & Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants
- Incentives for Advanced Battery Production and Storage Capability (vehicles, solar, wave and wind)
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program
- Loans for retooling factories for the production of advanced technology vehicles (i.e. hybrids, plug-ins hybrids, advanced direct injection gasoline, advanced diesel, and fuel cells)
- Advanced Biofuels Production and Infrastructure)

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request in addition to existing research and deployment initiatives. We look forward to working with you to provide a real commitment to energy independence and a clean environment, as well as, to spur the green jobs that will benefit our great nation.

Sincerely,

Debbie Stabenow Mark Feingold

Robert A. Mikulski Hillary Rodham Clinton

Joe Biden Shirley

Lon Wyden Frank R. Lautenberg

Robert Menendez Ben Cardin

Bill Nelson Joe Lieberman

Paul Baker

Samuel H. Haskins

Ang. Klobuchar

Ed. Ben

Chris Dr. Dr.

Patrick Leahy

Chuck Schumer

Samuel Dine

John Reed

Tom Carper

Dick Durbin

Mark Conaway

Ted Kennedy

John F. Kerry

Bob Casey, Jr.

Carl Levin

et al

Ken Salazar

Eric Boehl

Coinc. McCasill
